

SAF/LLZ (Legislative Research Team)

GOODE, Virgil H., Jr. (Republican)
Representative, 5th District, Virginia
Elected (1996) to the 105th Congress
Reelected to succeeding Congresses



BACKGROUND

Born: Richmond, Virginia - 17 October 1946

Home: Rocky Mount, Virginia

Marital status: Married (Lucy) - 1 child

Religion: Baptist

Education: University of Richmond, B.A., 1969; University of Virginia, J.D., 1973

Military: Virginia National Guard, 1969-1975

Profession: Lawyer

Political: Virginia Senate, 1974-96; Sought Democratic nomination for US Senate, 1982; 1994. Defeated George C. Landreth, III, and George R. "Tex" Wood with 60.1% of the vote in the 1996 election for the seat of Rep Lewis F. Payne, Jr., (D), who retired. Reelected in 2000 with 67% of the vote and in 2002 with 64%.

Rep Goode is a conservative. As a Democrat, he opposed President Clinton's positions 84% of the time--more than any other Democrat. He was one of 5 Democrats who voted to impeach President Clinton. His positions in many issues, such as abortion, guns and tobacco, are totally at odds with the liberal Democratic line. Joined the "Blue Dog" group of Democrats. Opposed renewing China's normal trade relations in 1997.

In the 106th Congress, switched from the Democratic Party to become an Independent. He will join the Republican Caucus, but is running for reelection in the 107th Congress as an Independent. Announced he would continue to vote on the basis of what he believed to be in the best interests of the 5th District and not on a particular party position. Stated that not all areas of the country share in the economic prosperity the President referred to in his State of the Union address. Noted that the 5th District of Virginia is experiencing job losses and unemployment rates significantly higher than the State average. Suggested that the fears of those who expressed concern when NAFTA was proposed have been realized. Asserted that nearly all of the plant closings in the area have been certified by the Dept of Labor as NAFTA impacted, making the workers eligible for the trade Adjustment Assistance Program and the NAFTA Transitional Adjustment Assistance program. Also noted that H.R. 1967, the NAFTA Impact Relief Act, introduced by Rep Shows (D-MS) which has over 70 cosponsors, would provide tax incentives and grants to communities affected by the loss of businesses and jobs as a result of NAFTA.

In the 107th Congress, requested that his party designation be changed from Independent to Republican on all official publications and databases of the House of Representatives effective August 1, 2002.

Bases: None

COMMITTEES

APPROPRIATIONS - Subcs on Agriculture, Rural Development, and FDA; Military Construction; VA, HUD, Independent Agencies